United Nations A/63/859

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 May 2009

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 19 May 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to refer you to the letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina, addressed to you, transmitting a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the issuing of postage stamps by the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and British Antarctic Territory.

The United Kingdom firmly rejects the complaint by the Government of the Argentine Republic concerning the issuing of postage stamps by the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and British Antarctic Territory.

The United Kingdom further rejects the claim by the Government of the Argentine Republic that the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, British Antarctic Territory and the surrounding maritime areas form an integral part of the Argentine national territory and are illegitimately occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas.

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the British Antarctic Territory and in this context draws attention to article IV of the Antarctic Treaty to which both the United Kingdom and Argentina are parties.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23.

(*Signed*) Philip **Parham**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

09-34486 (E) 260509

Please recycle